

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, March 7, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA).

## DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 7, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY BONILLA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Isaias warns us, O Lord, unless we acknowledge You as Lord with living faith and lasting reverence we go adrift.

You have raised us and reared us; yet we have disowned You. Our house pets know their owners; our appetites know where to be fed; yet we do not know where to turn unless we truly belong to You.

As Your people, when we hear You call us: "a sinful nation, a people laden with wickedness, an evil race, corrupt children," shall we run away from You? Or toward You?

Is it You we fear and cannot face or is it the truth about ourselves and our children? Strengthen us that we may be drawn into the truth by You now and forever. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to turn off cell phones when they enter the House Chamber.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will once again remind Members that cell phones are to be turned off in the House Chamber. Since the Chair's similar announcement a few moments ago, yet another cell phone has rung on the House floor.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GRANGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

S.J. Res. 6. Joint Resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, relating to ergonomics.

The message also announced that in accordance with Public Law 93-618, as amended by Public Law 100-418, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, appoints the following Members of the Finance Committee as congressional advisers on trade policy and negotiations—

the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY);

the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH);

the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI);

the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS); and

the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER).

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

## SUPPORT RESEARCH FUNDING FOR NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay and leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same.

My constituents, Betti and Carlos Lidsky, are such people. Three of their four children, Isaac, Daria and Ilana, have an irreversible, incurable, degenerative eye disease known as retinitis pigmentosa which will eventually cause blindness. The Lidsky children are among the 6 million Americans who suffer from sight-debilitating diseases, and that number is poised to skyrocket as an additional 9 million Americans have presymptomatic signs of retinal degeneration.

I learned of these statistics through Betti and Carlos, who work tirelessly every day to raise awareness on these issues. They raise funds for research, and they work closely with researchers. They have testified before congressional committees, and this week they will be here in Congress lobbying us to make sure that each and every one of us works toward making blinding diseases extinct.

Betti, Carlos and their children, Isaac, Daria and Ilana, are the reason why we need to support research funding for the National Eye Institute. Promising clinical experiments are underway, and with our continued support, we can be sure that a cure is just around the bend.

## PERMISSION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I have at the desk a personal request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the leave of absence request.

The Clerk read as follows: Leave of absence requested for Mr. SKELTON of Missouri for tomorrow.